

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Christi Disher
1113 Donnell Road
Broussard, Louisiana 70518

**Re: Louisiana Board of Ethics
Docket No. 2021-059**

Dear Mrs. Disher:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics ("Board"), at its March 5, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") would prohibit your broadband internet services company from entering into service agreements with Chicot State Park and, potentially, all RV campgrounds within the Louisiana Office of State Parks (within the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism).

FACTS PROVIDED

You are the manager at Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site. You and your husband are part owners of a broadband internet services company. There is a possibility that your company will be selected to provide services to the Chicot State Park. Additionally, there is a possibility that your company could provide internet services to all RV campgrounds in the Louisiana Office of State Parks. Louisiana State Parks and Historic Sites operate under the Louisiana Office of State Parks but have different operational objectives. Historic sites – like Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site – do not have campgrounds and would not be included in the potential service agreement.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1113(A) states no public servant, excluding any legislator and any appointed member of any board of commission and any member of a governing authority of a parish with a population of ten thousand or less, or member of such a public servant's immediate family or legal entity in which he has a controlling interest shall bid on or enter into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that based on the facts presented, the Code will not prohibit your broadband internet services company from entering into a service agreement with Chicot State Park and/or the Louisiana Office of State Parks, which is an office of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism. La. R.S. 42:1113(A) prohibits a public servant or a legal entity in which she has controlling interest from entering into any contract under the supervision or jurisdiction of her agency. In this matter, your agency is Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site. As long as neither you nor your company enters into any contract or other transactions with Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site, your company will not be prohibited from entering into a service agreement for the provision of internet services to RV campgrounds with the Louisiana Office of State Parks.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

LaToya D. Jordan
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
This is a draft opinion and it is NOT an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.
No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only, and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics in which this matter is considered.